

REMARKS

Applicants have carefully considered the June 8, 2007 Office Action, and the comments that follow are presented in a bona fide effort to address all issues raised in that Action and thereby place this case in condition for allowance. Entry of the present response is respectfully solicited. It is believed that this response places this case in condition for allowance. Hence, prompt favorable reconsideration of this case is solicited.

Claims 1-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jones et al. (U.S. Pat. App. Pub. No. 2004/0153408, hereinafter “Jones I”) in view of Jones et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,843,418, hereinafter “Jones II”). Applicants respectfully traverse.

The present claimed subject matter, as described in each of independent claims 1, 5, 7 and 10-13, recites a banknote handling device comprising, inter alia, a counterfeit processing module that stores each banknote determined as counterfeit into the counterfeit collection box and prohibits the stored counterfeit banknote from being returned to the customer. The independent claims further require a notification module that notifies the customer of predetermined kind of information. The information provided for the customer, in the notification, is indicative of a total amount of money received from the customer and is indicative of an amount of money settled as a transaction; regardless of the result of the counterfeit detection by the discrimination module. Thus, the two features of the present claimed subject matter are summarized as follows: (a) a counterfeit banknote is recovered into a counterfeit collection box and is prohibited from being returned to a customer; and (b) the customer is notified of information for specifying a total amount of money received from the customer, including any received counterfeit banknotes.

Paragraph [0113] of Jones I, which is relied upon by the Examiner, fails to teach prohibiting the return of the counterfeit banknote to the customer. Instead, paragraph [0113] of Jones I teaches that if the documents are not genuine, then the system proceeds to one of three steps 233, 234 or 235, *depending upon which option the user chooses*. One of the options (235) is to return the counterfeit bills to the customer. Thus, it cannot be said that Jones I prohibits the return of the counterfeit currency, since Jones I provides several options from which the user can select from. Thus, Jones I fails to disclose or suggest the above feature (a) in paragraph [0113] since there is no teaching or suggestion to prohibit the banknote from being returned to the customer.

As for the feature (b) of independent claims 1, 5, 7 and 10-13, the Examiner asserts that the feature (b) is disclosed in Jones II at col. 31, lines 36-52 and col. 32, lines 1-6. Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's characterization of the reference. Jones II at col. 31, lines 36-52 discloses:

"If there are no further documents. . . , the device may optionally display information associated with the processed documents at step 1224. This information may include any combination of the following:

- (1) the total amount of authentic currency bills processed (e.g., \$15,567);*
- (2) a breakdown of the denominations of currency bills processed (e.g., 140 \$1 bills, 147\$5 bills, 268 \$10 bills, and so on);*
- (3) the total number of valid media detected (e.g., 156 pieces of valid media processed);*
- (4) barcode information detected from barcoded media (e.g., barcode number 12345678);*
- (5) the total number of flagged currency bills processed (e.g., 5 flagged bills, where 3 bills are no call bills, 1 bill is a suspect bill, and 1 bill is both suspect and no call);*

(6) the total number of invalid media detected (e.g., 16 pieces of invalid media processed); the total amount of media detected (e.g., \$10,000 in media processed);”

The “no call bill” in the item (5) above is described in col. 16, lines 33-36 as follows:

“The operator may also instruct the device 200 to deliver those bills whose denomination was not determined, i.e., no call bills, to the first upper output receptacle 208a.”

The “flagged currency bills” in the item (5) above is described in col. 17, lines 19-22 as follows:

“the device 200 is configured so that when the evaluation region 204 is unable to identify certain criteria regarding a currency bill or substitute currency medium, the unidentified document is flagged and “presented” in one of the output receptacles 208a-208h”

It should be apparent that the above items (1) – (6) in Jones II do not teach or suggest the feature (b) of present claims 1, 5, 7 and 10-13, namely, that the customer is notified of information for specifying a total amount of money received from the customer, where the total amount includes any counterfeit banknotes. Jones II does not teach that the total amount of money is the total amount of money received from the customer, regardless of the result of the counterfeit detection by the discrimination module as recited in the present claims 1, 5, 7 and 10-13. In more concrete terms, the above item (1) of Jones II only teaches the total amount of authentic currency bills processed, but fails to teach or suggest the total amount of money received from the customer, regardless of the result of the counterfeit detection by the discrimination module. Item (5) of Jones II (above) teaches the total number of flagged currency bills processed, but this only means displaying how many “flagged currency bills” such as no call bills (denomination undetermined) and suspect bills (unauthenticated) are processed. It is not, however, the total amount of money including an amount of any amount of money attributable to counterfeit banknotes, nor even an amount of money. Furthermore, Jones I, at

numbered paragraph [0013] and step 236 in Fig. 11a, discloses that only genuine banknotes, not counterfeit banknotes, are counted and that the total amount B_{total} is the total amount of the genuine banknotes. Thus, Jones I does not present a total amount of money including that of both genuine and counterfeit banknotes as required in each of independent claims 1, 5, 7 and 10-13. Accordingly, neither Jones I nor Jones II teaches notifying the customer of a total amount of money received from the customer, including any counterfeit banknotes, as required in each of independent claims 1, 5, 7 and 10-13.

Each of independent claims 1, 5, 7 and 10-13 requires that the customer is notified of the total amount of money, which includes any counterfeit notes received from the customer as well as genuine notes. As described in the specification, the customer is notified of the amount of received counterfeit banknotes, as well as genuine banknotes, otherwise, the customer would be confused by a display that indicates a total amount of received genuine banknotes, especially since the devices of the present claimed subject matter do not return the counterfeit banknotes.

Independent claim 5 further requires, in pertinent part, a banknote handling device having a safe that receives therein multiple storage boxes for storing genuine banknotes, and that a counterfeit collection box is located outside the safe. It is not apparent and the Examiner has not explained where either Jones I or Jones II discloses a counterfeit collection box that is disposed outside of the safe. Thus, claim 5 is free from the applied references for at least this reason.

Moreover, the Office action fails to specifically address the claimed features of dependent claims 7, 10, 11, 12 and 13. It is not apparent and the Examiner has not specifically explained where either Jones I or Jones II discloses the claimed features of dependent claims 7, 10, 11, 12 and 13.

Claims 16, 17 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Edin et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 4,736,852, hereinafter “Edin”) in view of Jones et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 7,187,795, hereinafter “Jones III”). Applicants respectfully traverse.

The Examiner stated that although Edin fails to disclose a customer information management module, but asserts instead that Jones III teaches this claimed feature at cols. 7, lines 3-17. However, this section of Jones III only discloses a scanning device which obtains a customer ID number in order to relate the depositing customer to the amount of the deposit. The section of Jones III does **not** teach or suggest the feature of Claim 16, wherein a management module manages customer information for identifying each customer who handles a transaction, mapped to the presence or absence of any counterfeit banknote involved in the transaction.

Moreover, the Examiner asserts that Edin discloses the feature of not returning counterfeit banknotes to the customer. Applicants respectfully disagree. Edin clearly describes “the return of rejected or non-acceptable documents to the outfeed or withdrawal opening of the apparatus” in column 5, lines 29-31. Thus, Edin is totally different from the claimed feature of claim 16, requiring the “setting at least one of the multiple banknote storage boxes to a collection box, which stores counterfeit banknotes to be not returnable to the customer.” In other words, claim 16 recites that the counterfeit banknotes are not returnable to the customer, whereas they are returned to the customer in Edin.

Incidentally, the Examiner may have misread the limitation of claim 16 at page 4, line 10 of the Office Action. The Examiner stated in part that Edin discloses “ a collection box to store counterfeit banknotes **note** to be returned” (emphasis added). However, claim 16 actually describes that that the collection box stores counterfeit banknotes to be not returned.

Claim 19 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Edin in view of Jones III and further in view of Ikuta (U.S. Pat. No. 6,749,053, hereinafter “Ikuta”).

Independent claim 19 describes a banknote handling device that handles banknotes. The banknote handling device comprises, in pertinent part, a management module that manages customer information for identifying each customer who handles a transaction, mapped to the presence or absence of any counterfeit banknote involved in the transaction, wherein the management module maps each banknote involved in the transaction to the customer information. Edin does not disclose that the customer ID number is mapped to each banknote, but rather, Edin only relates the customer ID to the amount of the deposit by the customer.

Moreover, the Examiner asserts that Edin discloses the feature of not returning counterfeit banknotes to the customer. Applicants respectfully disagree. Edin, as discussed above, clearly describes “the return of rejected or non-acceptable documents to the outfeed or withdrawal opening of the apparatus” in column 5, lines 29-31. Thus, Edin is totally different from the claimed feature of claim 19, which requires that the counterfeit banknotes are not returned to the customer.

Claim 19 further recites that the counterfeit banknotes are not returned to the customer, and that the collection box for storing the counterfeit banknotes is located outside the safe. The Examiner recognizes that the collection box for storing the counterfeit banknotes is taught in Ikuta as collection box 13 in Figure 2. Ikuta, however, discloses at col. 7, lines 22-26 that if a banknote is judged to be normal it is stored temporarily in collection box 13, and if the banknote is judged to be counterfeit or not normal, it is sent back to the refunding portion 9 and so a counterfeit or not normal banknote is returned to the customer. It should be clear that Ikuta does not teach or suggest the features of Claim 19 requiring that the counterfeit banknotes are not

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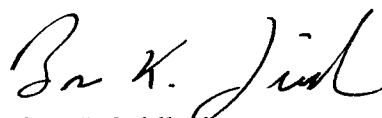
returned to the customer, and that the collection box for storing the counterfeit banknotes is located outside the safe. Accordingly, the rejection is not legally viable and should be withdrawn.

It is believed that the pending claims are now in condition for allowance. Applicants therefore respectfully request an early and favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application. If there are any outstanding issues which might be resolved by an interview or an Examiner's amendment, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' representative at the telephone number shown below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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